

REMARKS

Claims 9-13, 15-17, 19 and 25 are amended herein to depend from allowable Claim 14. The amendment does not add new matter.

Claims 8, 18 and 26 are canceled herein without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Applicants maintain that the cancellation of a claim makes no admission as to its patentability and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claim in this or any other patent application.

The amendments to the claims are merely to change dependency of claims to now depend from allowable Claim 14. Accordingly, the amendments do not create new issues requiring a search. As such, Applicants submit that the claim cancellations and claim amendments comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b), and may be properly entered into the record.

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 9-17 and 19-25 are pending.

Objection to Claims 14 and 20-24

The Office Action states that Claims 14 and 20-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the identification of allowable subject matter in the instantly pending claims. Applicants note that some of the above-identified allowable claims are already in independent form. In particular, Claims 14 and 20-23 are independent claims, and Claim 24 depends from Claim 21 or Claim 23. As such, it appears that Claims 14 and 20-24 are in proper form to be allowed. Accordingly, these claims are not further amended herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-11, 13, 15-19, 25 and 26 are rejected as being obvious over Akazawa in view of Hammann and alternatively Cole or Kang. Claim 12 is rejected as being obvious over Akazawa in view of Hamann, Cole or Kang in further view of Chang or De Steur.

Claims 8, 18 and 26 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of these canceled claims is moot.

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Applicants submit that the cited references do not teach all elements of the remaining pending claims, as amended herein. Thus, all claims are non-obvious over the cited art.

Claims 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 25 are amended herein to depend from Claim 14. The cited references do not teach all elements of Claim 14. This appears to be confirmed in the Office Action, which does not reject Claim 14 over these references, and which indicates that Claim 14 is allowable. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 14 is non-obvious over the cited references. Further, Claims 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 25, which are amended herein to depend from Claim 14, now contain all elements recited in Claim 14. As such, these claims also are non-obvious over the cited references.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims are patentable and request that they be passed to issue. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if any remaining issues might be resolved by telephone.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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